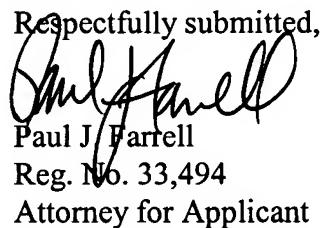


REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending in the application, with Claims 1 and 4 as independent claims. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,990,333 B2 to Andrew et al.

It is respectfully noted that the Examiner relies on Andrew et al. to reject all of the claims. The earliest date that can be relied upon with respect to Andrew et al. is November 27, 2002, the Application filing date. Submitted herewith is an Affidavit under 37 C.F.R. §1.131, which includes an invention disclosure and an English translation thereof, which establishes the date of the reduction to practice of the invention described in the present application prior to November 27, 2002. Based on at least the foregoing, withdrawal of Andrew et al. as a reference and withdrawal of any and all rejections based thereon is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1-6 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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